

# SUMMARY OF GOALS

## **GOAL #1: CATALYZING THE CREATION OF NEW — AND EXPANDING THE CAPACITY OF EXISTING — LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURES**

- Goal 1.1- Designate a Community Food Security liaison in each State
- Goal 1.2- Create an interactive database of food security activities — available in a handbook and through the World Wide Web
- Goal 1.3- Develop and implement a coordinated training and technical assistance effort for communities
- Goal 1.4- Develop and implement a “Community Commitments” campaign to catalyze community action to address food security issues
- Goal 1.5- Replicate successful, or create new, local USDA Community Food Projects in 40 additional communities by 2000
- Goal 1.6- Coordinate with the initiatives on Small Farms and Sustainable Development
- Goal 1.7- Create an internal USDA Advisory Council on Community Food Security (CFSAC)
- Goal 1.8- Streamline processes for nonprofits to receive Federal funds for food-security related efforts
- Goal 1.9- Give funding priority in other programs for proposals that incorporate community food security activities

## **GOAL #2: INCREASING ECONOMIC AND JOB SECURITY**

- Goal 2.1- Catalyze economic development and job creation and bolster community food security at the local level through USDA Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Champion Communities

- Goal 2.2- Provide assistance to welfare-to-work efforts, including training on household and food management, micro-enterprise projects, and job training projects
- Goal 2.3- Launch a Federal initiative to expand Community Kitchens.
- Goal 2.4- Increase utilization of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Goal 2.5- Provide assistance on welfare-reform-related independence support services such as child care, transportation, health care, and family financial planning

### **GOAL #3:       STRENGTHENING THE FEDERAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE SAFETY NET**

- Goal 3.1- Restore Food Stamps benefits to elderly immigrants
- Goal 3.2- Conduct large-scale campaign to increase participation of eligible families — and particularly working families — in the Food Stamps Program
- Goal 3.3- Ensure fuller utilization of the Women Infants, and Children (WIC) Program
- Goal 3.4- Improve farmers markets’ access to Food Stamps Program Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)
- Goal 3.5- Support projects to increase utilization and program integrity of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Goal 3.6- Increase public awareness of — and participation in — the Summer Food Service Program
- Goal 3.7- Improve nutrition services to the elderly
- Goal 3.8- Increase public awareness of — and technical assistance to — entities aiding after-school child nutrition programs

### **GOAL # 4:       BOLSTERING SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROVIDED BY NONPROFIT GROUPS**

- Goal 4.1- Establish and implement a strategic plan and a method for concretely measuring progress towards the goal of increasing food recovery and gleaning by 33 percent; implement a comprehensive plan to reach the goal

## **GOAL #5: IMPROVING COMMUNITY FOOD PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**

- Goal 5.1- Increase participation in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- Goal 5.2- Boost "Farm-to-School" Projects
- Goal 5.3- Provide assistance to projects that create new farmers' markets and help existing farmers' markets increase their customers or vendors
- Goal 5.4- Increase outreach and assistance to community gardens or farms
- Goal 5.5- Provide assistance to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) efforts and to food-buying cooperatives

## **GOAL #6: BOOSTING EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**

- Goal 6.1- Develop and implement internal and external community food security communications plan
- Goal 6.2- Develop and distribute communications materials and information resources
- Goal 6.3- Host quarterly Community Food Security Roundtables
- Goal 6.4- Host an annual Community Summit on World Food Day with community delegations from across the Nation.
- Goal 6.5- Develop and disseminate a USDA Community Food Security Kit that defines community food security
- Goal 6.6- Increase nutrition education and promotion
- Goal 6.7- Contribute to improved nutrition policy formulation

## **GOAL #7: IMPROVING RESEARCH, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION**

- Goal 7.1- Develop a set of assessment tools that can be used at the community level to assess various components of community food security
- Goal 7.2- Help grass-roots groups identify hunger problems in local communities

- Goal 7.3- Continue annual collection of household food security and hunger data via the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement
- Goal 7.4- Conduct research on the impact of welfare reform, particularly as it pertains to the emerging needs for the Food Stamps Program
- Goal 7.5- Sponsor research studies which improve our understanding and capacity to address issues related to access to food assistance programs for vulnerable groups
- Goal 7.6- Evaluate universally-available school breakfast
- Goal 7.7- Conduct research on the dietary quality of Americans, including low-income groups, children, and people of diverse ethnic and rural-urban status
- Goal 7.8- Conduct research on the costs of raising children in the United States, including the costs of food and other key expenditures
- Goal 7.9- Conduct research on the costs of USDA food plans, including the Thrifty Food Plan, the Moderate Food Plan, and others used by the military

# GOALS AND ACTION STEPS

## **Goal # 1: CATALYZING THE CREATION OF NEW — AND EXPANDING THE CAPACITY OF EXISTING — LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURES**

### **Goal 1.1- Designate a Community Food Security liaison in each State**

#### Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 1.1.1:** Brief National Food and Agriculture Leadership on the Community Food Security (CFSI) Initiative. (Completed)

**Action Step 1.1.2:** Outline responsibilities of State CFS Liaisons and request the National FAC to instruct State FAC's to designate a State CFS Liaison. (Completed)

**Action Step 1.1.3:** Liaisons named in all 50 States. (Completed)

**Action Step 1.1.4:** All Liaisons receive one-day introductory training. (August 1999)

**Action Step 1.1.5:** All Liaisons will work with local nonprofit groups and government agencies to coordinate their State's participation in the National Summit on Community Food Security tentatively scheduled for October 15, 1999. CFSL will recruit and coordinate State and community delegations to the Summit and help those delegations highlight best practices and develop concrete new commitments to boost food security. (August 1 - October 15, 1999)

**Action Step 1.1.6:** Liaisons will work with any existing local or State CFS committees/councils. In States where local or State CFS committees or councils already exist — or in cases where the Liaisons work with groups to create such an entity — the Liaison should find ways to institutionalize USDA involvement. The Liaison must find a way to balance two sometimes competing goals: maximizing USDA's ability to provide assistance with minimizing USDA attempts to control local groups or "Federalize" the process.

#### Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 1.1.7:** Organize quarterly conference calls to facilitate communication about the CFSI between and among State CFS Liaisons. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 1.1.8:** Each Liaison will work to improve coordination and outreach between such programs as food stamps, Women, Infants and Children, community gardens and urban agriculture; food recovery and gleaning, farmers' markets, job training programs, school meals, after-school snacks, and summer feeding programs; economic development programs targeted at food insecure

communities; nutrition education, farm-to-school projects, and local research and education efforts. The Liaison should meet and be able to utilize all CFS-related USDA staff in their State. (Ongoing)

#### Expanding Technical Assistance

**Action Step 1.1.9:** Each Liaison will provide information and serve as the point-of-contact for USDA technical assistance related to the CFSI, for municipalities, tribes, nonprofit groups, individuals, and programs involved in CFS at local levels. The Liaison will be expected to make a best effort to provide assistance to any entity wanting to make a commitment to engage in new activities to bolster community food security. Such assistance may range from directing a group to potential funding sources to obtaining soil surveys for community gardens to convening meetings with relevant local groups to forge new partnerships. (Ongoing)

#### Educating the Public

**Action Step 1.1.10:** All Liaisons will represent USDA at food security-related meetings and events in their State. Such meetings may include State and county fairs, meetings with youth groups, State and local government officials, as well as state and local level meetings of farm groups, civic associations, food banks, food rescue organizations, tribal gatherings, business and community service groups, anti-hunger organizations, chambers of commerce, etc. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 1.1.11:** Liaisons will distribute to materials prepared by the National Initiative, as well as any relevant information about State-specific projects and activities, to entities throughout the State. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 1.1.12:** Liaisons will prepare and submit narrative or quantitative reports about States' CFS projects. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 1.1.13:** Liaison will work with public affairs staff of USDA and community entities to coordinate publicity and media coverage for CFS activities. (Ongoing)

**Oversight mechanism:** FSA, OSEC, CFSI Coordinator

**Goal 1.2-** **Create an interactive database of food security activities — available in a handbook and through the World Wide Web** — starting at the national level and eventually expanding to include data at the State and local level

#### Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 1.2.1:** FNS revises contract requirements for National Hunger Clearinghouse to include resources for new database (completed)

**Action Step 1.2.2:** Send draft of national database handbook and website prototype to key constituency groups for feedback; materials will detail existing government resources, explain how to access them, and provide contact people for each program. (August 20, 1999)

**Action Step 1.2.3:** Reach agreement with key national nonprofit groups regarding the manner in which they will be linked to site and connect links. (October 15/October 25, 1999 respectively)

Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 1.2.4:** Obtain technical support staff and equipment from agencies already involved in order to, first, create a national database, and, eventually, create a State and local database in which information can be entered – and retrieved – by the public through the Internet. (August 15, 1999)

**Action Step 1.2.5:** All agencies agree to database structure, codes, and process for data entry. (August 20, 1999)

**Action Step 1.2.6:** All agencies either merge or link their community food security-related websites. (August 20, 1999)

**Action Step 1.2.7:** Enter electronically or by scanner into database USDA inventory, inventory of other Federal agencies, and Extension Inventory, detailed information about activities of Community Food Project Grantees, and information from National Hunger Clearinghouse; create links to USDA technical assistance providers for all the programs listed. (September 30, 1999)

**Action Step 1.2.8:** Database and website adapted to allow some information to be entered – and retrieved – by the public through the Internet. (March, 2000)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 1.2.9:** Mail updated handbook and send e-mail to all groups on database announcing its availability and encouraging use of database to make “community commitments.” (March, 2000) {See goal 1.4}

Educating the public

**Action Step 1.2.10:** At Summit on Community Food Security, announce new site; include website address on tv, radio, electronic, and print Public Service Announcements (PSA’s); and request Web service providers to list USDA site in “electronic PSA’s.” (October 15, 1999)

**Action Step 1.2.11:** Hold at least one community event to physically demonstrate a community providing — and retrieving — information on the site. (By June 2000)

**Oversight mechanism:** CFSI Coordinator, CSREES, FNS

**Goal 1.3- Develop and implement a coordinated training and technical assistance effort for communities,** utilizing the resources of USDA, other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the private and nonprofit sectors. Provide technical assistance to 300 communities in 1999 and 500 communities in 2000.

Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 1.3.1:** Organize a focus group of community-based programs, advocates, researchers, and technical assistance consultants to provide input on

USDA's community food security technical assistance framework and community commitment criteria. (Completed)

**Action Step 1.3.2:** Work with World Hunger Year, FRAC, Bread for the World, and other groups to develop and participate in regional quarterly community meetings with hunger and food security stakeholders; work with groups to facilitate state meetings as deemed appropriate. (September-December 1999)

**Action Step 1.3.3:** Sponsor activities in conjunction with annual and regional meetings of the Community Food Security Coalition membership. (October 1999 and ongoing)

**Action step 1.3.4:** Sponsor speakers on food security at six training conferences of the Cooperative Extension System. (1999 and 2000).

**Action Step 1.3.5:** Develop and implement 12 Community Food Security technical assistance sessions with related Federal agencies in conjunction with Community Food Project grant outreach. (1999 and 2000)

**Action Step 1.3.6:** Develop a fact sheet on food policy coalitions based on the research and publications of the Community Food Security Coalition and other publications for inclusion in the USDA Community Food Security Kit. (Summer 1999)

#### Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 1.3.7:** Establish an outreach and training framework on community food security with USDA staff in Sustainable Development, Small Farms, AMS, CSREES, RD, FSA, NRCS and other relevant USDA agencies. (1999)

**Action Step 1.3.8:** Work with National Association of Extension Educators and support speakers and trainers on issues of community food security. (1999-2000)

**Action Step 1.3.9:** Integrate Community Food Security into technical assistance to Empowerment Zones, and Enterprise and Champion Communities. (1999)

#### Educating the public

**Action Step 1.3.10:** Outline technical assistance resources in USDA Community Food Security Kit and link community food security resources from other agencies, and organizations with the Community Food Security Initiative website. (1999)

**Action Step 1.3.11:** Develop and distribute annual technical assistance calender to State liaisons, Community Food Project Grantees, and related USDA staff. (June 1999)

**Oversight mechanism:** CFSI Coordinator, CSREES, Community Food Projects Coordinator

**Goal 1.4-      Develop and implement a “Community Commitments” campaign to catalyze community action to address food security issues**

Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 1.4.1:** Organize a focus group of community-based programs, food bankers and food rescuers, advocates, and technical assistance consultants to develop preliminary community commitment criteria, outreach plan, and public education strategy. (Completed)

Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 1.4.2:** Hold conference to launch research initiative to develop standards for community food security that can be utilized by communities to assess assets and need. See Goal 6.1. (Completed)

**Action Step 1.4.3:** Work with Community Food Security Coalition, Food Research Action Council, and other groups to integrate with their materials related to this issue. (Ongoing)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 1.4.3:** Develop a commitments “tool kit” for communities. This kit will clearly outline the goal of the commitments, the elements of a commitment, and the benefits of making a commitment. (August 1999)

Educating the public

**Action Step 1.4.4:** Unveil “Community Commitments” at the USDA Community Food Security Summit (Goal 6.4). (October 16, 1999)

**Action Step 1.4.5:** Develop outreach plan to communities utilizing CFSI staff for national contacts and State liaisons for State contacts. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 1.4.6:** Develop a legal framework and tracking mechanism for commitments. (September 1999)

**Action Step 1.4.7:** Develop a public education strategy for commitment makers. (September 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:**      CFSI Staff

**Goal 1.5-      Replicate successful, or create new, local USDA Community Food Projects in 40 additional communities by 2000.**

Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 1.5.1:** Require CFP applicants to have two or more collaborative partners in their proposed project. (April 2000)

**Action Step 1.5.2:** Conduct broad outreach for community food projects increasing the applications by 30 percent in 1999 and 2000. (Completed for 1999, ongoing for 2000)

**Action Step 1.5.3:** Develop a fact sheet on how to plan and conduct a community food security tour, which will be included in the Community Food Security Kit. (First drafted completed)

**Action Step 1.5.4:** Develop and conduct 20 Community Food Security Tours in 1999 and 40 tours in 2000 to highlight outstanding community food projects. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 1.5.5:** Coordinate a national meeting of current and past community food projects grantees to discuss best practices and highlight projects for USDA staff and personnel. (Completed)

**Action Step 1.5.6:** Sent notification of the CFPCGP RFP release to all EZ/EC applicants and RC&D Council. (Completed for 1999; complete for 2000 by June 2000)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 1.5.7:** Evaluate existing community food projects, compile best practices, and develop an information piece on best practice for inclusion in the CFSI Kit. (June 2000)

**Action Step 1.5.8:** Conduct conferences for community food project grantees to facilitate evaluation of the CFP projects. (June 1999 and January 2000).

**Action Step 1.5.9:** Conduct five regional training and technical assistance workshops in 1999 and 10 in fiscal 2000. (These workshops will reach 500 people in fiscal 1999 and 1,000 people in fiscal 2000)

**Action Step 1.5.10:** Develop Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program site visit; tool; and utilize on a pilot basis in 10 sites in FY 1999 and 20 in fiscal 2000. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 1.5.11:** Develop Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program brochure to highlight elements of grants and showcase best practices. (Completed)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CSREES, Community Food Projects Coordinator

**Goal 1.6- Coordinate with the initiatives on Small Farms and Sustainable Development**

Catalyze new partnerships

**Action Step 1.6.1:** Direct State CFS Liaisons to work with and coordinate projects with State Rural Development Councils, RC&Ds, sustainable agriculture and forestry and community networks, and nongovernmental organizations in urban and rural communities. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 1.6.2:** Emphasize and develop new markets between small farmers and urban consumers. (Ongoing)

Improve coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 1.6.3:** Coordinate State activities with USDA State Rural Development Directors, Food and Agriculture Councils, and Outreach Coordinators. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 1.6.4:** Designate community food security representative on USDA Council on Sustainable Development and as a small farms coordinator. (August 1999)

Expand technical assistance

**Action Step 1.6.5:** Participate in USDA implementation of the recommendations of the report of the President's Council on Sustainable Development to work with other Federal Departments, State and local governments, communities and foundations to create a rural learning infrastructure for a sustainable communities network. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 1.6.6:** The CFSI will provide speakers on community food security at five relevant conferences and workshops on small farms, sustainable development, and sustainable agriculture to link concepts of community food security with these efforts. (Ongoing)

Educate the public

**Action Step 1.6.7:** Use a community food security activity as part of the lead-up to and/or follow-up to the National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America in Detroit. (Completed)

**Action Step 1.6.8:** Include community food security as an example of USDA sustainable development activities in the USDA Council on Sustainable Development education campaign. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CSD

**Goal 1.7- Create an internal USDA Advisory Council on Community Food Security (CFSAC)** that will draft (March 31, 1999) and implement (from March 1, 1999 to January 1, 2001) a comprehensive Community Food Security Action Plan and an inventory of USDA food-security-related activities.

Improving coordination of USDA Programs

**Action Step 1.7.1:** Draft Action Plan submitted to the Secretary. (Completed)

**Action Step 1.7.2:** Action Plan implementation. (Started 4/1999, currently ongoing)

**Action Step 1.7.3:** Coordinate and communicate with the Interagency Working Group on Food Security (IWG) on implementation of the domestic portion of the *U.S. Action Plan on Food Security*; assist IWG in coordinating with DHHS on the Healthy People 2010 Initiative (CFSAC); report on progress of CSFI to IWG. (Starting March 26, 1999)

**Action Step 1.7.4:** Monitor implementation of domestic *Action Plan* elements related to community food security for which USDA is responsible. (Starting March 26, 1999)

**Action Step 1.7.5:** Progress report on Initiative submitted to the Secretary. (November 31, 1999; June 31, 2000; and November 31, 2000)

**Action Step 1.7.6:** Publish report of progress made toward meeting performance measures. (June 31, 2001)

Educating the public

**Action Step 1.7.7:** Communicate actions of the IWG in support of the U.S. Plan of Action to stakeholders and partners across the Nation. (Starting March 26, 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CFAC Co-chairs (Undersecretaries FNCS & REE)

**Goal 1.8- Streamline processes for nonprofits to receive Federal funds for food-security-related efforts**

**Action Step 1.8.1:** FNCS and CFSI agree upon key steps, programs to be included, and better coordinate related applications; also determine whether applications can be made (or obtained) electronically, via new USDA Community Food Security website. (October 1, 1999)

**Action Step 1.8.2:** Announce plans for simplification at National Summit on Community Food Security. (October 16, 1999)

**Action Step 1.8.3:** Draft application packet and begin internal review. (November 1, 1999)

**Action Step 1.8.4:** Send revised materials for OMB review. (December 1, 1999)

**Action Step 1.8.5:** Finalize and announce streamlined process. (April 1, 1999)

**Oversight mechanism:** CFSI Coordinator, FNCS

**Goal 1.9- Give funding priority in other programs for proposals that incorporate community food security activities**

Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 1.9.1:** Provide priority points for funding to multifamily and labor housing projects which provide land for community gardening or use their community center for feeding programs, such as meals-on-wheels, or nutrition education programs. (May 2000)

**Oversight mechanism:** RHS

## **GOAL #2:        INCREASING ECONOMIC AND JOB SECURITY**

**Goal 2.1-        Catalyze economic development and job creation and bolster community food security at the local level through USDA Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Champion Communities**

Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 2.1.1:** Support USDA's 8 Empowerment Zones and 50 Enterprise Communities (EC) selected in Round I and II and, pending appropriations, increase the number of EZ/EC's/Champion Communities in Round III. (Ongoing)

Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 2.1.2:** Distribute the Community Food Project RFP to all EZ/EC applicants and grantees. (June 1999 & 2000)

**Action Step 2.1.3:** Provide training on EZ/EC Initiative to all State liaisons. (Ongoing)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 2.1.4:** Track community food-security-related projects developed by EZ/EC's and develop annual project summary. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 2.1.5:** Offer community food security workshops at USDA-sponsored EZ/EC national and regional conferences and technical assistance sessions. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 2.1.6:** Distribute community diagnostic tools developed by ERS to USDA funded EZ/EC's. (2000)

**Action Step 2.1.7:** Provide information on EZ/EC Initiative to all Community Food Project grantees. (Completed for existing projects; ongoing for future projects)

Educating the public

**Action Step 2.1.7:** Highlight "what works" in USDA and HUD Empowerment Zones, and Enterprise and Champion Communities in a "best practices" guide. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 2.1.8:** Highlight community food security efforts of the EZ/EC's in the USDA Community Food Security Kit and encourage EZ/EC's to be involved in community food security efforts. (August 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:**        OCD

**Goal 2.2-        Provide assistance to welfare-to-work efforts, including training on household and food management, micro-enterprise projects, and job training projects.**

#### Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 2.2.1:** USDA agencies involved in welfare-to-work meet regularly to integrate USDA programs and resources into welfare-to-work policy and programming. (Ongoing)

**Action Steps 2.2.2:** Highlight the job training and economic development activities in USDA's EZ/EC areas and other rural development programs, and connect related Federal agency welfare-to-work efforts. (September 1999)

**Action Step 2.2.3:** FNS will work in partnership with States and communities to increase and improve utilization of Food Stamps Employment and Training funds.

(Letter sent to Governors in July 1999; follow-up activities ongoing)

**Action Step 2.2.4:** Provide training to all existing Community Food Project grantees on the new HHS Individual Development Account (IDA) program that enables low-income families to save funds for purposes such as education, job training, or home purchases. (Completed)

**Action Step 2.2.5:** Provide outreach to community food-security-related groups on new IDA grant rounds. (August, September 1999)

**Action Step 2.2.6:** Work to integrate ongoing IDA activities into local community food security activities. (Ongoing)

#### Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 2.2.7:** A fact sheet on the best practices of the Expanded Nutrition Education Program and Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program in developing knowledge and skills related to improve economic status will be developed for the Community Food Security Kit. (September 1999)

**Action Step 2.2.8:** Integrate economic education into training of Community Food Projects grantees, utilizing CSREES extension programs and expertise. Conduct 1 workshop for Community Food Project grantees in 1999 and 2000.

**Action Step 2.2.9:** CSREES and its partners will help communities in mapping assets relevant to community food security; reference tools will be put in the USDA Community Food Security Initiative Kit. (September 1999)

**Action Step 2.2.10:** Participate in five regional training of State teams toward entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Forestry with CSREES and regional rural development centers. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 2.2.11:** Collaborate with the Expanded Nutrition Education Program and Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program in developing knowledge and skills related best practices used to improve economic circumstances. Include in the Community Food Security Initiative Kit. (September 1999)

**Action Step 2.2.12:** CSREES will work with FNS to increase awareness of the Food Stamp Employment and Training program and create a fact sheet on the program for the Community Food Security Kit. (September 1999)

#### Educating the public

**Action Step 2.2.13:** Develop a fact sheet on CSREES education efforts to inform the public about welfare-to-work and workforce preparedness resources for inclusion in the Community Food Security Initiative Kit. (September 1999)

**Action Step 2.2.14:** Link relevant websites and create a fact sheet about CSREES and partner organizations' resources for child care. (September 1999)

**Action Step 2.1.15:** Develop and promote use of educational materials guiding working families in effective resource management; utilize effective methods and materials to promote economical, nutritious meals for low-income and working families. (CNPP, CSREES) (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** FNS, CSREES, OCD

### **Goal 2.3- Launch a Federal initiative to expand Community Kitchens**

#### Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 2.3.1:** Publish fact sheet for nonprofit groups sponsoring community kitchens focused on how to apply for welfare-to-work and job training funding and obtain other resources available from USDA (including the Cooperative Extension System), DOL, HHS, HUD, and other Federal agencies; immediately make staff available from those agencies for training sessions for current or future community kitchens. (September 1, 1999)

**Action Step 2.3.2:** Write to summer food service entities making them aware of the potential to partner with Community Kitchens. (April 2000)

**Action Step 2.3.3:** FNS will write to Food Stamps Directors, clarifying how Food Stamps Employment and Training Funds can be used for community kitchens and other efforts that combine food rescue with job training. (September 1999)

**Action Step 2.3.4:** Implement a plan to encourage corporations involved in the food industry to donate used food service equipment for community kitchens and job training on servicing equipment. (February 1, 2000)

**Action Step 2.3.5:** Help sponsor conference of community kitchens to discuss best practices and growth strategies. (May 1, 2000)

**Action Step 2.3.6:** RBCS and RHS establish partnerships, at the national and State level, with organizations and institutions who can provide outreach, technical assistance, and/or financial assistance to rural community agencies interested in establishing community kitchens. (Ongoing)

#### Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 2.3.7:** In a letter sent to Governors from Secretary Glickman on improving Food Stamps utilization, highlight community kitchens as an example of how States can use Food Stamps Employment and Training funds. (Completed)

**Action Step 2.3.8:** FNS, CSREES, and FSIS jointly implement plan to encourage use of Community Kitchen trainees in nutrition and food safety activities

sponsored by EFNEP, Food Stamp Nutrition Education grantees, Team Nutrition, and other nutrition education activities. (April 2000)

**Action Step 2.3.9:** RDSCS will revise appropriate Rural Development program pamphlets and regulations to emphasize the eligibility of community kitchens for financial assistance from Rural Development. (Ongoing)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 2.3.10:** Work with private and nonprofit sector partners to develop a technical assistance manual and how-to-video on how to start a community kitchen; include section issues related to school-based facilities. (April 2000)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CFSI Coordinator, FNS, CSREES, FSIS

**Goal 2.4-** **Increase utilization of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** by working poor families, increasing number of applications facilitated through county Extension offices

Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 2.4.1:** Increase IRS/Extension collaboration in educating the working poor about the earned income tax credit. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 2.4.2:** FNS will write to state Food Stamp agencies encouraging them to provide information and applications on EITC to program participants. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 2.4.3:** CSREES, in collaboration with DHHS, will develop information and educational materials about Individual Development Accounts (IDA) and encourage any possible interactions between the EITC and IDA programs. (December 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CSREES, FNS

**Goal 2.5-** **Provide assistance on welfare-reform-related independence support services such as child care, transportation, health care, and family financial planning.** FNS will ensure that, by the end of fiscal year 1999, any and all interested parties have access to information discussing the opportunities for employment in the growing child care industry.

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 2.5.1:** FNS will develop and post on its website the informational material described above. (September 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CSREES, FNS

### **GOAL #3:        STRENGTHENING THE FEDERAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE SAFETY NET**

**Goal 3.1-**        **Restore Food Stamps benefits to elderly immigrants**, contingent upon Congressional approval. If approved, this goal will restore food stamp benefits to legal immigrants who turned, or will turn, 65 after enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) on August 22, 1996, and who were lawful permanent residents on that date.

#### Improving Coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 3.1.1:** If this legislative proposal of the Administration's budget request is enacted, FNS and its State agency partners will make these food stamp benefits available to about 15,000 elderly legal immigrants in FY 2000. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:**        FNS

**Goal 3.2-**        **Conduct large-scale campaign to increase participation of eligible families — and particularly working families — in the Food Stamps Program**

#### Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 3.2.1:** USDA will make administrative changes in the Food Stamps program to ease the burden on recipients and States. The changes include:

- New policy guidance making it easier for working families to own a car and still receive food stamps.
- New regulations that simplify rules so that families do not have to report income as often and States will not be penalized for small errors in estimating families' future earnings; and
- A tool kit — part of the education and information campaign — to help local, State, and community leaders in understanding food stamp program requirements as well as model strategies to improve participation. (Completed)

**Action Step 3.2.4:** Distributing new Food Stamps outreach materials to low-income rural residents via USDA Rural Development Offices and other related USDA programs and agencies. (October 1999)

#### Educating the Public

**Action Step 3.2.2:** USDA will launch an education and information food stamp campaign that will target the working poor, legal immigrants and the elderly. Elements of the campaign will include a toll-free number, (800) 221-5689, a brochure, flyer, and bus cards. (Launched July 1999)

**Action Step 3.2.3:** President Clinton announces steps to improve Food Stamps outreach and utilization. (Completed)

**Oversight Mechanism:**        FNS

**Goal 3.3- Ensure fuller utilization of the Women Infants, and Children (WIC) Program**

Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 3.3.1:** Support Administration's fiscal 2000 budget request to obtain a \$200 million increase in WIC in order to keep the government on track toward Administration's goal of fuller utilization of the program. (Ongoing, through end of fiscal 2000 appropriations process)

Educating the public

**Action Step 3.3.2:** Communicate results of CNPP/FNCS national seminar on the contribution of breakfast to school children's performance. (April 2, 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CNPP, FNS

**Goal 3.4- Improve farmers' markets' access to Food Stamps Program Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) — FNS will work with its State partners to better integrate farmers' markets, Community Supported Agriculture projects, and other similar efforts into Food Stamp EBT systems across the country, helping to support producers in their local communities, while providing Food Stamp recipients with better access to fresh produce. A full action plan is currently being finalized.**

**Oversight Mechanism:** FNS

**Goal 3.5- Support projects to increase utilization and program integrity of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) – FNS will complete, by the end of fiscal year 2002, several activities related to the promotion of "direct certification" and Provisions 2 and 3 under the NSLP and SBP as a result of which local program administrators will be more aware of their options relative to providing nutrition benefits to more children in a less complex and burdensome manner.**

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 3.5.1:** FNS will award grants funded through the National School Lunch Act to up to 20 States to identify and provide technical assistance to schools that could benefit from implementing Provisions 2 and 3. (Fiscal 2000, fiscal 2001).

**Action Step 3.5.2:** FNS will publish proposed and final regulations which will provide States and local schools with more concrete information to use in determining whether Provisions 2 and 3 will be helpful to them in reaching more children. (Fiscal 2000)

**Action Step 3.5.3:** FNS will publish final regulations governing the implementation of "direct certification" provisions. These regulations will codify

guidance material already provided to State agencies which local schools may have been reluctant to implement without regulations. (Fiscal 2000)

**Oversight Mechanism:** FNS

**Goal 3.6- Increase public awareness of — and participation in — the Summer Food Service Program** — FNS will complete the second phase of its Summer Food Service Program outreach and expansion effort (September 30, 1999)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 3.6.1:** FNS will have issued to State administering agencies seven policy memoranda designed to facilitate participation by program sponsors; this will increase the total number of such memoranda issued over the past two years to 20. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 3.6.2:** FNS will develop and distribute a 16-page booklet titled “A Guide to Starting a SFSP in Your Community” and will have re-printed and distributed three informational and technical assistance brochures. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 3.6.3:** Prior to the beginning of the SFSP, informational/outreach letters will be sent to the National School Boards Association, as well as other national organizations representing various Native American tribes, church groups and migrant workers. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** FNS

**Goal 3.7- Improve nutrition services to the elderly** — An action plan will be developed to make nutrition assistance programs more responsive to the diet/health needs of the elderly. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** FNS

**Goal 3.8- Increase public awareness of, and technical assistance to, entities aiding after-school child nutrition programs** — FNS will ensure that, (1) all schools participating in the National School Lunch Program will have been provided comprehensive information about the availability of and participation requirements for, the after-school snack program operated by schools and (2) all public and private organizations that operate after-school care programs for children up through the age of 18 will have been provided comprehensive information about the availability of and participation requirements for the after-school snack program operated under the Child and Adult Care Food Program. (September 30, 1999)

Catalyzing partnerships

**Action Step 3.8.1:** FNS will partner with groups such as FRAC and World Hunger Year who currently have initiatives to expand usage of this new program. (Ongoing)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 3.8.2:** FNS will, promote the after school snack programs at national conferences sponsored by (September 31, 1999):

- ◆ The American School Food Service Association
- ◆ The National Association of Elementary School Principals
- ◆ The National School Boards Association
- ◆ The National Parent Teacher Association
- ◆ The National Council of La Raza
- ◆ The National Black Child Development Institute
- ◆ The National Middle School Association
- ◆ The CACFP Sponsors Association and Sponsors Forum
- ◆ The National School Age Child Care Alliance
- ◆ The National Head Start Association Conference
- ◆ The Children's Defense Fund

**Action Step 3.8.3:** FNS will have met in person with representatives of all FNS regional offices and State administering agencies about the availability of and program requirements for the after-school snack programs and will have conducted briefings on the after school programs for (September 31, 1999):

- ◆ The National Education Association
- ◆ The National Parent Teacher Association
- ◆ Officials from the Council of Chief State School Officers
- ◆ Departments of Education in California, Texas and New York
- ◆ The Food Research and Action Center
- ◆ The American School Food Service Association

**Action Step 3.8.4:** FNS will have conducted major "roll out" sessions in each of the seven FNS regions for the purpose of providing information on the after-school snack programs to school officials, State and local government officials, child advocacy and community development organizations, and the general public. (September 31, 1999)

**Action Step 3.8.5:** FNS will issue a policy guidance memorandum concerning the implementation of the after-school snack provisions, as well as follow up "Q and A's" to the policy issuances. This material will also be provided to stakeholders and the public through the FNS website, and by faxes sent from the CFSI database. (September 31, 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:** FNS

## **GOAL # 4:      BOLSTERING SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROVIDED BY NONPROFIT GROUPS**

**Goal 4.1-**      **Establish and implement a strategic plan and a method for concretely measuring progress towards the goal of increasing food recovery and gleaning by 33 percent** — and implement a comprehensive plan to reach the goal

### Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 4.1.1:** Implement USDA/DOT cooperative agreement on increasing transportation for recovered food; start pilot projects. (September 31, 1999).

**Action Step 4.1.2:** Launch new transportation partnership with the technology industry and key non-profit groups at National Summit on Community Food Security. (October 15, 1999)

**Action Step 4.1.3:** Work with Youth Service America to make more anti-hunger volunteer opportunities available via the Internet. (October 15, 1999)

### Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 4.1.3:** Increase food recovery and gleaning activities related to School Lunch and Breakfast programs; publish and distribute “best practices” guide on school food donations; expand efforts to support food rescue on college and university campuses. (February 1, 2000)

**Action Step 4.1.4:** Expand USDA Farm Service Agency field gleaning activities to double the number of pounds of food collected from 3.5 million pounds in 1998 to goal of 7 million pounds in 1999 and increase the number of States participating in gleaning to at least 35 in 1999 and 50 in 2000. Communicate these goals and progress towards goals to State CFS Liaisons. Develop and implement a common database for local entry of food recovery and gleaning efforts, including poundage and commodity types. Promote activities through local media and Service Center newsletters. (January 1, 2000)

### Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 4.1.5:** Educate Congress for Administration’s proposal for food recovery; if funds are appropriated, announce RFP October 16, 1999.

**Action Step 4.1.6:** Print and widely distribute revised Citizens Guide to Food Recovery. (Completed)

**Action Step 4.1.7:** Work with the Department of Treasury to clarify status of tax deductions for food donations, and to review potential legislation. (Ongoing, 2000)

**Action Step 4.1.8:** USDA and the US Environmental Protection Agency jointly produce and distribute guide targeted to helping municipal solid waste and recycling coordinators, as well as corporate production managers, to tie food recovery and gleaning specifically to solid waste reduction. (October 1, 2000)

Educating the public

**Action Step 4.1.9:** ERS study on emergency food assistance providers will be used to set baselines for food recovery and gleaning efforts and to establish follow-up mechanisms for measuring progress. (July 2000)

**Action Step 4.1.10:** Increase public awareness of food waste and the importance of year-round gleaning, especially through USDA's food gleaning hot line (1-800-GLEAN-IT) and the brochure *Help Feed the Hungry*; publicize existing tax incentives and the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. (January 1, 2000)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CFSI

## **GOAL #5: IMPROVING COMMUNITY FOOD PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**

**Goal 5.1- Increase participation in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)** — FNS will add four new State agencies (bringing the total from the current level of 35 to a target of 39) and increase the number of recipients that are served. (Approximately 1 million WIC participants received FMNP benefits during fiscal year 1997; fiscal year 1998 data are incomplete at this time.)

### Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 5.1.1:** CSREES, AMS, FSA and FNS will develop and implement joint efforts between the National Association of Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, the National Association of WIC Directors, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture detailing joint efforts to improve and expand the program including: outreach, market development, and technical assistance plans. (Ongoing)

### Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 5.1.2:** FNS, with assistance from OBPA and OSEC, will provide detailed information to Congress explaining the Administration's budget proposal to increase funding for the program by \$5 million (from current \$15 million) in fiscal 2000. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 5.1.3:** AMS, with assistance from CSREES and FNS, will develop joint steps to expand awareness of matching grant funds available to State Departments of Agriculture through the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program to address agricultural marketing issues that arise in making the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program more widely accessible. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** FNS, AMS, CSREES

**Goal 5.2- Boost Farm-to-School Projects** — Enhance the nutrition of school meals and the family income of small farmers, by helping small farmers sell fresh produce directly to school districts. Will build on existing statewide and local farm-to-school pilot projects.

### Catalyzing New Partnerships

**Action Step 5.2.1:** Solicit input on draft "how to" brochure, fact sheets, and kit from key external groups, including Occidental College CFS Project, farm groups, sustainable agriculture groups, school associations, State governments, etc. (October 1, 1999)

**Action Step 5.2.2:** Develop action plan with key external groups for boosting farm-to-school projects, including: statewide conferences, train-the-trainer workshops, and publicizing the effort. (November 1, 1999) (AMS, CSREES, FNS, NRCS, RBCS).

**Action Step 5.2.3:** Formalize activities with key external groups to implement action plan. (December 1, 1999)

Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 5.2.4:** Develop coordinated strategy among USDA agencies for assisting States and local areas in establishing farm-to-school fresh produce purchasing projects. (October 1, 1999)

**Action Step 5.2.5:** Coordinate publication of draft “how to” brochure, fact sheets, and kit to ensure uniform presentation and appearance. (October 1, 1999)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 5.2.6:** Draft fact sheet for school food officials describing “how to” purchase fresh produce from local small farmers. (October 1, 1999)

**Action Step 5.2.7:** Draft fact sheet for small farmers describing “how to” market fresh produce to local schools. (October 1, 1999)

**Action Step 5.2.8:** Draft fact sheet for describing “how to” form a marketing cooperative. (October 1, 1999)

**Action Step 5.2.9:** Draft brochure describing “how to” hold a statewide meeting to promote local farm-to-school fresh produce purchasing projects. (October 1, 1999)

**Action Step 5.2.10:** Develop a plan to distribute “how to” materials during 1999 and 2000, including distribution through AMS website for Direct Farmer Marketing. (October 1, 1999)

**Action Step 5.2.11:** Develop train-the-trainer program for local farm-to-school projects. (January 1, 2000)

**Action Step 5.2.12:** Expand awareness of matching grant funds available to State Departments of Agriculture through the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program, to support innovative approaches to linking local farms to schools as a source of fresh produce. (January 1, 2000)

Educating the public

**Action Step 5.2.13:** Conduct statewide meetings to generate interest and commitment for local farm-to-school fresh produce purchasing projects utilizing framework developed by FNS. (Beginning October 1, 1999)

**Action Step 5.2.14:** Conduct train-the-trainer workshops at several locations across the country. (Beginning November 1, 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:** AMS, CSREES, CSD, FNS, NRCS, OCD, OOR, RBCS

**Goal 5.3- Provide assistance to projects that create new farmers markets and help existing farmers’ markets increase their customers or vendors**

#### Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 5.3.1:** Meet with representatives of farmers' markets to better define issues requiring attention. (By September 30, 1999) (AMS)

**Action Step 5.3.2:** Develop plan with States (i.e., NASDA) to promote development and use of farmers' markets. (By October 1, 1999) (AMS)

**Action Step 5.3.3:** Develop plan with key external groups to promote the use of Food Stamps and WIC benefits at farmers' markets. (By October 1, 1999) (FNS)

**Action step 5.3.4:** In conjunction with state departments of agriculture and others, expand efforts to create new farmers' markets in conjunction with Federal facilities in areas without such markets. (October 1, 1999)

#### Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 5.3.5:** Catalog resources and technical assistance available through USDA to support development of farmers' markets. (By October 1, 1999)

#### Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 5.3.6:** Expand awareness of matching grant funds available to State Departments of Agriculture through the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program to support innovative approaches to solving problems faced by farmers markets. (By October 1, 1999) (AMS)

**Action Step 5.3.7:** Through AMS' Farmers Market and Farmer Direct Marketing websites as well as printed material make available catalog of resources and technical assistance available through USDA to support development of farmers markets. (By October 1, 1999)

**Action Step 5.3.8:** Disseminate results of USDA projects that support development of farmers markets (e.g., farmers markets in public parks, kitchens for further processing products sold at farmers markets, etc.) as they become available. (October 1999)

**Action Step 5.3.9:** Disseminate and promote use of training module to enhance the skills of farmers market managers. (By January 1, 2000) (AMS, CSREES)

**Action Step 5.3.10:** Expand content and links (e.g., relevant state Web sites) to AMS farmers' market website. (Beginning April 31, 1999) (AMS)

**Action Step 5.3.11:** Provide assistance to projects that help farmers markets electronically accept Food Stamps and WIC benefits. {See Goal 3.4}

**Action Step 5.3.12:** AMS will explore the creation of mobile farmers markets to increase access to fresh produce by low-income women and children who live in remote and inner-city areas. (Ongoing)

#### Educating the public

**Action Step 5.3.13:** Implement plan developed with the States to promote farmers markets. (Ongoing) (AMS, CSREES)

**Action Step 5.3.14:** Implement plan, developed with key external groups, to promote use of food stamps and WIC benefits at farmers markets. (By January 1, 2000) (CSREES, FNS).

**Oversight Mechanism:** AMS, CSREES, FNS, FSA

**Goal 5.4- Increase outreach and assistance to community gardens or farms**

Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 5.4.1:** Organize focus groups of nonprofit groups and advocates; USDA field staff; private sector and other Federal, State and local representatives (including consulting the American Community Gardening Association); focus groups will develop outreach and implementation strategies to develop or expand community gardens. (October 1999)

Improving Coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 5.4.2:** Include community gardens as a performance element for USDA Food and Agriculture Councils at the national, State, and local levels. Require annual reports on community garden activities initiated and their accomplishments. (October 1999)

**Action Step 5.4.3:** Include community gardens as a functional element for USDA State Technical Committees. Require annual reports on community garden activities initiated and their accomplishments. (October 1999)

**Action Step 5.4.4:** Direct Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordinators to encourage expansion and development of community gardens as an objective for local RC&D Councils. (October 1999)

**Action Step 5.4.5:** Direct Urban Resource Partnership (URP) Coordinators to recommend expansion and development of community gardens to their local advisory boards. (October 1999)

**Action Step 5.4.6:** Direct District Conservationists to recommend expansion and development of community gardens to their local Conservation District Board of Supervisors. (October 1999)

**Action Step 5.4.7:** Increase Cooperative Extension Master Gardner, Master Food Processors, and Master Marketers Programs to increase and expand community food systems. (1999 and 2000)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 5.4.8:** Expand the Urban Soils program to expedite the development of methodologies to insure that soils are safe for food production in community gardens. (September 1999)

**Action Step 5.4.9:** Direct the Chair of the National Field Office Technical Guide Committee to prepare standards for community garden conservation practices. (October 1999)

**Action Step 5.4.10:** Direct State Conservationists to insure that county level "Field Office Technical Guides" contain appropriate materials for conservation planning for community gardens. (October 1999)

**Action Step 5.4.11:** CFSI will develop fact sheets (or better distribute existing fact sheets) on resources for technical assistance for developing community

gardens for inclusion in the Community Food Security Action Kit. (October 1999)

Educating the public

**Action Step 5.4.12:** Direct the Director of Conservation Communications to develop and produce a public information publication and information in other media, to assist community gardeners in resource conservation. (October 1999)

**Action Step 5.4.13:** Direct District Conservationists to recommend educational initiatives on community gardens as a priority for Conservation Districts' annual plans of operations. (July 1999)

**Action Step 5.4.14:** Include Community Gardens in the USDA Community Food Security Guide. (1999)

**Action Step 5.4.15:** Develop fact sheet on nutrition profile of key garden commodities. (CNPP with CSREES) (2000)

**Outreach Mechanism:** NRCS, CSREES

**Goal 5.5- Provide assistance to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) efforts and to food-buying cooperatives**

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 5.5.1:** USDA will include segments on Community Supported Agriculture and food-buying cooperatives in all its general publications and handbooks on community food security and encourage partner organizations of the Department to include such discussions in their material as deemed appropriate. (December 1999)

**Action Step 5.5.2:** USDA will produce fact sheets (or distribute facts sheets produced by such entities as the Just Food Alliance and the Center for Sustainable Living) to explain how community efforts related to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects and food-buying cooperatives can interact with existing USDA programs such as Food Stamps and farm programs. (December, 1999)

**Action Step 5.5.3:** Whenever necessary, FNS, FSA, RBCS and other USDA agencies will clarify to their regional, State, and county offices how Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects and food-buying cooperatives can obtain assistance from existing USDA programs; appropriate SDA agencies will provide technical assistance upon request to community groups seeking to obtain USDA assistance for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects and food-buying cooperatives. (1999 and 2000)

**Action Step 5.5.4:** Provide existing research documents related to the establishment and operation of farm cooperatives, prepared by the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS), to those interested in establishing a food-buying cooperative.

**Action Step 5.5.5:** Seek passage of pending legislation which would grant authority for the RBCS to conduct research and education related to food-buying

cooperatives and to provide technical assistance to individuals or entities interested in establishing a food-buying cooperative. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CSFI, RBCS

## **GOAL #6: BOOSTING EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**

### **Goal 6.1- Develop and implement internal and external community food security communications plan**

#### Educating the public

**Action Step 6.1.1:** Develop and implement communications plan that includes: detailed proposals for coordinated travel and events by the Secretary, Under and Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Under and Assistant Secretaries, Agency Administrators, and Community Food Security Initiative staff; plan for opinion pieces, columns, and letters to the editor by national and State USDA officials; plan for sending information through county committees; talk radio plan; media plan related to National Summit on Community Food Security; and send briefing packets to editorial writers and targeted columnists. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CFSI, OC

### **Goal 6.2- Develop and distribute communications materials and information resources**

#### Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 6.2.1:** Develop CFSI messages for use by Secretary, Sub-Cabinet, Agency Administrators, and State leadership to use in public speeches, Op/Eds. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.2.2:** Compile and maintain a “CFSI Calendar of Events”. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.2.3:** Identify opportunities during scheduled events to utilize USDA spokespersons to promote the CFSI and provide information resources useful at the community level. (OC with CFSI staff and agency information directors) (Ongoing)

#### Educating the public

**Action Step 6.2.4 –** Secretary Glickman and other USDA officials speak about the Initiative at a wide variety of public events. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.2.5:** Develop CFSI fact sheet and backgrounder for use in outreach to external audiences, including the news media. (Completed)

**Action Step 6.2.5:** Develop a “CFSI Update” publication (newsletter) for use in disseminating information to grass-roots community food security groups and to USDA employees engaged in CFSI activities; sent through Spectrafax and e-mail through centralized database; include regular updates from relevant agencies and/or directly send agency materials to database. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.2.6:** Prepare a comprehensive listing (including electronic availability) of USDA and non-USDA publications involving community food security. (May 1, 1999)

**Action Step 6.2.7:** Develop and distribute short video detailing diverse “faces of hunger” on how individuals and organizations can get involved through the

Community Food Security Initiative; show at Community Food Security Summit.  
(October 15, 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:** OC, CFSI

**Goal 6.3- Host quarterly Community Food Security Roundtables** to bring grass-roots organizations together with multi-disciplinary USDA staff and related federal agencies, to discuss opportunities to provide direct assistance in addressing community food security issues; work with groups such as World Hunger Year and FRAC.

Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 6.3.1:** Set schedule for 1999. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.3.2:** Develop Roundtable Task Force to develop protocol and outcomes. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.3.3:** Host Roundtables. (1999 and 2000)

**Action Step 6.3.4:** Task forces on application simplification, website development, and replication work on follow-up. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.3.5:** Compile outcomes and recommendations for Secretary, sub-cabinet, Administrators, and Federal agency partners. (January 1, 2000)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CFSI staff, CSREES, FFAS, FNCS, OC

**Goal 6.4- Host an annual Community Summit on World Food Day with community delegations from across the Nation.** The National Summit on Community Food Security will mobilize communities across the country to work with government, nonprofit groups, and the private sector to make comprehensive commitments that will cut American hunger and food insecurity in half by the year 2015. The Summit will be held on October 15, 1999, in conjunction with the annual World Food Day broadcast. Sponsored jointly by USDA and key national nonprofit organizations, the Summit will:

- 1) Generate specific new commitments by communities and national leaders to fight hunger — both immediate and long-term;
- 2) Highlight best practices that are already working to bolster food security;
- 3) Develop innovative partnerships between the Federal government and State, local and Tribal governments, nonprofit groups, and the private sector; and
- 4) Increase national hunger awareness.

The main site will be Chicago, Illinois. Additionally, there will be satellite downlink across the country held in conjunction with the main site. The main site will have two groups of commitment makers/participants, all of whom will be asked to make specific new commitments to increase food security:

- 1) Community delegations: Delegations will be selected by governors, mayors, county executives, food security or policy councils, or by community-based organizations working together.
- 2) National Commitment-Makers and VIPS: The main Summit site will seek the involvement AND commitment of national leaders and groups (i.e.: corporations and small businesses; faith-based organizations and religious groups; labor unions, trade associations; Federal cabinet secretaries and Members of Congress; charitable foundations and non-profit organizations; State, tribal, and local elected officials; farmers; researchers; food manufacturers and distributors and food service professionals; anti-hunger activists and food security practitioners; and economic and community development professionals — in short, anyone who is or could be associated with building food security in this country).

#### Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 6.4.1:** Develop organizing committee comprised of public, private and non profit partners. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.4.2:** Finalize site. (Completed)

**Action Step 6.4.3:** Finalize staff needed to send invitations and track attendees; prepare printed materials; help with hotel and travel arrangements; set-up workshops; handle site and remote logistics; set-up site visits; send information to — and track — downlinks sites; handle procurement and budget, register participants; etc. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.4.4:** Invite community delegations, selected by the USDA Community Food Security Liaison in each State. (Ongoing)

#### Expanding technical assistance

**Action step 6.4.5:** Develop training and technical assistance model for the Summit to facilitate the development of community action plans for community food security. (Ongoing)

#### Educating the public

**Action Step 6.4.6:** Secretary announces Summit. (August, 9, 1999)

**Action Step 6.4.7:** Comprehensive Summit communications plan implemented. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CFSI staff

**Goal 6.5- Develop and disseminate a USDA Community Food Security Kit that defines community food security**, outlines USDA food security related resources, and showcases best practices and effective partnerships nationally.

#### Educating the public

**Action Step 6.5.1:** Develop outline. (Completed)

**Action Step 6.5.2:** Research best practices nationally and in USDA. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.5.3:** Confirm layout, design, graphics. (Completed)

**Action Step 6.5.4:** First draft complete. (Completed)

**Action Step 6.5.5:** Review by Advisory Council. (September 1999)

**Action Step 6.5.6:** Final draft complete. (September 10, 1999)

**Action Step 6.5.7:** Printed and disseminate Kit through cooperative extension, community action agencies, hunger networks, State, local agencies, non profit and private organizations. (October 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CFSI staff, Office of Communication

## **Goal 6.6- Increase nutrition education and promotion**

### Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 6.6.1:** Collaborate with the Expanded Nutrition Education Program, Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program and Superpantry/Supercupboard programs in developing knowledge and skills-related best practices used to improve nutrition education to include in the Community Food Security Initiative Kit. (September 1999)

**Action Step 6.6.2:** Sponsor speakers to attend national meetings of Parent Teacher Organizations encouraging the formation of food and nutrition policy committees within their organizations to promote good food and nutrition in schools. (October 1999)

**Action Step 6.6.3:** Expand use of USDA/CNPP food and nutrition guidance materials by influencing intermediary groups and information multipliers and providing them usable information. Information multipliers include policymakers, nutrition professionals and educators, nutrition program managers, and the media. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.6.4:** Create and work with public/private partnerships including the Dietary Guidelines Alliance formed to promote use of the Dietary Guidelines. (Ongoing)

### Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 6.6.5:** Encourage links between WIC, EFNEP, NET, and FSNEP programs for cross reference of clients and to complement each program's community work. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.6.6:** Promote nutrition education programs with food stamp clients. Develop a set of uniform nutrition promotion messages to help States administer their nutrition education programs. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.6.7:** Effectively utilize the Nutrition Education and Research Committee, the Human Nutrition Coordinating Council, and the Dietary Guidelines Working Group to coordinate USDA nutrition programs. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.6.8:** Implement recommendations made in *The State of Nutrition Education in the U.S.* (CNPP, 1996). (Ongoing)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 6.6.9:** Advertise availability of nutrition education materials from all Federal, State, and local programs, especially promoting materials that link nutrition education in with local sustainable food systems. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.6.10:** Support the National Agriculture Library Food and Nutrition Information Center in its maintenance of food and nutrition materials for the public and professional communities. Help promote their services to professionals and the general public. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.6.11:** Promote the nutrition education programs of food banks, Frontline projects, and other community organizations. (Ongoing)

Educating the public

**Action Step 6.6.12:** Include nutrition education information in USDA communications about community food security, including the USDA Community Food Security guide and website. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.6.13:** Advance nutrition guidance by issuing the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, year 2000 (CNPP/ARS with DHHS); provide updates to the Food Guide Pyramid as necessary to reflect ongoing research on food consumption and composition (CNPP); release a Food Guide Pyramid adaptation for children. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.6.14:** Effectively promote food and nutrition guidance for all Americans. CNPP will disseminate nutrition promotion materials (100,000 consumer brochures) and utilize its website for communicating the principles of the Dietary Guidelines 2000 to public. CNPP will also launch a targeted nutrition promotion program based on the Guidelines in 2000.

**Oversight Mechanism:** CNPP, FNS, CSREES

**Goal 6.7- Contribute to improved nutrition policy formulation**

Educating the public

**Action Step 6.7.1:** Enhance efficient development of food and nutrition guidance materials for the American public, including nutrition assistance recipients. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 6.7.2:** Improve measures of consumer expenditures and cost analysis and provide educational materials regarding food and family resource management. Work with FNS and other partners to develop and extend economical food budgets to households and consumers who could benefit from their use. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CNPP, FNCS

## **GOAL #7: IMPROVING RESEARCH, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION**

**Goal 7.1- Develop a set of assessment tools that can be used at the community level to assess various components of community food security,** including availability and participation in USDA food assistance programs, household and individual food security, community gardens, food and food store access, emergency feeding system infrastructure, economic and job security, and other related facets of community food security. The assessment tools would be used to identify areas of need, gaps in service, barriers to use, and opportunities for addressing community level problems.

### Catalyzing new partnerships

**Action Step 7.1.1:** ERS, in cooperation with FNS and CSREES, will convene a workshop of public and private sector experts on community food security to identify the key components of a comprehensive community food security infrastructure, develop measures that enable analysts to assess a community's ability to ensure food security, identify areas of need, and assess participation in, and access to, USDA nutrition assistance programs. (Completed)

**Action Step 7.1.2:** ERS, FNS, and CSREES will use input from the workshop to develop a set of community food security assessment modules that can be used to assess the various components of community food security. (December 2000, January 1, 2001)

**Action Step 7.1.3:** ERS will conduct a community food security literature review. (January 2000) [December 1999]

**Action Step 7.1.4:** FNS will develop a set of assessment criteria for community food security that can be used by local communities to conduct evaluations of their own communities relating to the availability, use, participation, and barriers to participation in USDA nutrition assistance programs. These criteria will be incorporated into the overall community assessment tool kit. (January 1, 2001)

**Action Step 7.1.5:** ERS, in cooperation with FNS and CSREES, will coordinate these assessments of food assistance participation and access and other community food security indicators into a draft survey instrument for community food security assessment which can be utilized in pilot projects. The instrument will be pilot-tested in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region as part of the ARS-sponsored Delta Nutrition Research Initiative. (January 2001)

**Oversight Mechanism:** ERS, FNS

**Goal 7.2- Help Grass-Roots Groups Identify Hunger Problems in Local Communities —** Update technical guidance on how local groups can use USDA's food security scale to identify households experiencing hunger. (September 1999)

Expanding technical assistance

**Action Step 7.2.1:** FNS and ERS will work together to will revise and update a guidance document designed to help local agencies, food security advocates, and other stakeholders interested in food security to identify households that are experiencing hunger. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 7.2.2:** ERS and FNS will develop and distribute a “how to” toolkit for local implementation of the validated food security assessment tool. (December 2000) [January 2001]

**Action Step 7.2.3:** FNS and ERS staff will be made available to provide additional technical assistance to individuals and organizations who are seeking to identify those experiencing hunger in their communities. (December 2000)

**Action Step 7.2.4:** CSREES will link research projects within the Cooperative Extension System and land grant universities relevant to community food security, will disseminate results, and will create forums for information sharing. (Ongoing)

Educating the public

**Action Step 7.2.5:** FNS staff will disseminate the food security guidelines to key stakeholders in the anti-hunger and food security communities. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** FNS

**Goal 7.3- Continue annual collection of household food security and hunger data via the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.** Provide annual estimates of the prevalence of food insecurity and hunger at the national level and for major population and demographic groups.

Educating the public

**Action Step 7.3.1:** Integrate survey module into USDA’s Continuing Survey of Food Intake by individuals (CSFII), the National Center for Health Statistics’ National Health and Nutrition Examinations Survey (NHANES), and other national, state, and local surveys. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 7.3.2:** Assess the effectiveness of the food security questionnaire; investigate alternative approaches for scaling food security items and classifying households into food security categories; and develop and field test future modifications of the food security scale. (September 2000)

**Action Step 7.3.3:** USDA will develop appropriate statistical procedures and provide national and State estimates of the prevalence and severity of food insecurity on a regular basis and develop a toolkit for implementation and interpretation of local surveys. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 7.3.4:** USDA will coordinate a bi-annual conference of experts from government, universities, research institutes, and public interests groups to provide direction for future food security research needs and data collection. (February 1999, 2000)

**Oversight Mechanism:** ERS

**Goal 7.4- Conduct research on the impact of welfare reform, particularly as it pertains to the emerging needs for the Food Stamps Program**

Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 7.4.1:** Conduct a Family Child Care Homes Study as Mandated by Congress (Final report, December 2001)

**Action Step 7.4.2:** Assess impact of Balanced Budget Act of 1997 revisions to the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program. (Fall 1999)

**Action Step 7.4.3:** Conduct a study of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)-leavers' use of food stamps

**Action Step 7.4.4:** Conduct studies of households who leave the Food Stamps Program. (September 2000)

**Action Step 7.4.5:** Conduct a study of changes in the Food Stamps Program administration processes related to welfare reform. (May 2000)

**Action Step 7.4.6:** Conduct a study to examine linkages between food assistance programs and the general economy. In particular, examine the characteristics of the welfare packages being developed at the State level and their impact on Federal food assistance program participation, rates, and expenditures. (September 2000)

**Oversight Mechanism:** ERS

**Goal 7.5- Sponsor research studies which improve our understanding and capacity to address issues related to access to food assistance programs for vulnerable groups**

Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 7.5.1:** Enhance data collection necessary to examine the link between WIC participation, infancy, and childhood to cognitive development, obesity, and food security by adding questions to the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Birth Cohort conducted by the National Center for Educational Statistics. (Data collection to begin in June 2000)

**Action Step 7.5.2:** Enhance data collection necessary to examine linkages between food security/hunger, cognitive development and school participation by adding the food security module in Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey-Kindergarten Cohort sponsored by the National Center for Educational Statistics. (Spring 2000)

**Action Step 7.5.3:** Develop and evaluate dietary assessment tools for young children that can be used in WIC program centers, with particular attention to tools appropriate for culturally diverse populations. (December 2000)

**Action Step 7.5.4:** Develop and evaluate a methodology to evaluate the Food Stamp Program's nutrition education activities. (September 2001)

**Action Step 7.5.5:** Conduct an evaluation of EBT customer service waivers on recipients. (December 2000)

**Action Step 7.5.6:** Improve and expand our understanding of the effects of USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs on food consumption, nutrient availability and intakes, dietary quality, nutritional status, and health outcomes. (August 2000)

**Action Step 7.5.7:** Conduct a study of the emergency food assistance system, including provider and recipient characteristics. (Provider study: October 20000)

**Oversight Mechanism:** ERS

**Goal 7.6 - Evaluate universally-available school breakfast** – FNS will design and (with funding from Congress) conduct a pilot-test in a number of schools to provide school breakfasts free to all students who need them. As part of the test, we will carefully evaluate the effect of eating school breakfast on children’s behavior and educational performance.

Improving coordination of USDA programs

**Action Step 7.6.1:** By the end of this fiscal year, FNS will design a pilot project to provide free breakfasts to all children in a number of school districts, and to evaluate the effects of such a program on children’s behavior and performance in school. (Ongoing, pending appropriations)

**Action Step 7.6.2:** Pending approval of funding by Congress, FNS will conduct the pilot project, and prepare an evaluation of the impact of the project on the behavior and performance of participating children. Research to date suggests that making breakfast available to all children can have positive effects on their behavior and academic performance; this pilot project can ensure that we have strong data to support our goals as we seek to expand and improve the School Breakfast Program. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** FNS

**Goal 7.7- Conduct research on the dietary quality of Americans including low-income groups, children, and people of diverse ethnic and rural-urban status**

Educating the public

**Action 7.7.1:** Evaluate the dietary quality of Americans using the Healthy Eating Index developed by the CNPP. Analyze overall dietary quality as well as adequacy of consumption of important food groups (fruits, vegetables, grains). (Ongoing)

**Action 7.7.2:** Develop an interactive Healthy Eating Index that can be used by educators and consumers to rate their own diets and identify improvements. (Ongoing)

**Action Step 7.7.3** Assess the dietary quality of nutrition assistance program recipients and model the impacts of participation in the nutrition assistance programs. Assess the adequacy of the WIC food packages in meeting the dietary needs of participants. (Release date 1999)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CNPP

**Goal 7.8- Conduct research on the costs of raising children in the United States including the costs of food and other key expenditures**

Educating the public

**Action Step 7.8.1:** Publish an annual report on “Expenditures on Children by Families in the United States.” (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CNPP

**Goal 7.9- Conduct research on the costs of USDA food plans, including the Thrifty Food Plan, the Moderate Food Plan, and others used by the military**

Educating the public

**Action step 7.9.1:** CNPP maintains the USDA food plans showing how much it costs to obtain an economical, nutritionally adequate diet. The Thrifty Food Plan furnishes the basis for benefits under the Food Stamps Program. (Ongoing)

**Oversight Mechanism:** CNPP

## **Codes for Responsible Agencies:**

AMS = Agricultural Marketing Service

ARS = Agricultural Research Service

CFSAC = Community Food Security Advisory Council

CNPP = Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

CSD = USDA Council on Sustainable Development

CSREES = Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

ERS = Economic Research Service

FAS = Foreign Agriculture Service

FNS = Food and Nutrition Service

FSA = Farm Service Agency

FSIS = Food Safety and Inspection Service

NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service

OC = Office of Communications

OCD= Office of Community Development

OCE= Office of the Chief Economist

OCR = Office of Congressional Affairs

RBCS= Rural Business and Cooperative Service

RHS= Rural Housing Service

RMA = Risk Management Agency

## **Other Federal Agencies:**

HHS = U.S. Department of Health and Human Services